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PATENT APPLICATION

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kaoru SAKAKIBARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3765

Application No.: 10/656,338

Examiner: I. IZAGUIRRE

Filed: September 8, 2003

Docket No.: 117019

For: SEWING MACHINE AND THREAD CASSETTE ATTACHED THERETO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

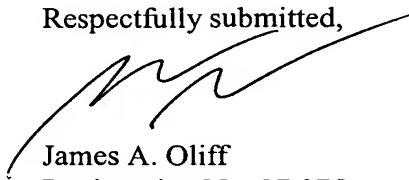
Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance or other action that closes prosecution (e.g., Quayle Action).
- ☒ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☒ 2. One or more reference cited herein was cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information. See References 1-8.
- ☒ 3. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(ii), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.
- ☒ 4. An English language Abstract of one or more non-English language reference is attached hereto. See References 4-8.



5. A computer-generated English language translation of one or more Japanese Patent Publication cited herein has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([<http://www.jpo.go.jp>]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 4-8.

Respectfully submitted,



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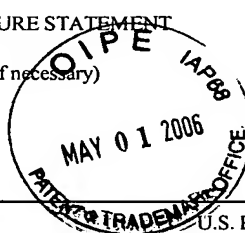
JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: May 1, 2006

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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 1/06)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY DOCKET NO. 117019		APPLICATION NO. 10/656,338	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S) Kaoru SAKAKIBARA et al.					
				FILING DATE September 8, 2003				GROUP 3765	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Date	Name
	1	6,981,459 B2	01/03/2006	Kitazawa et al.
	2	3,749,039	07/31/1973	Fritts
	3	2004/0000263 A12	01/01/2004	Sakakibara

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Date	Country	With English Abstract	With English Translation
	4	JP-A-2001-40569	02/13/2001	Japan	X	X
	5	JP-A-2002-191886	07/10/2002	Japan	X	X
	6	JP-A-6-191351	07/12/1994	Japan	X	X
	7	JP-A-2000-145272	05/26/2000	Japan	X	X
	8	JP-A-2004-24765	01/29/2004	Japan	X	X

OTHER DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

Date: May 1, 2006